

What is claimed is:

Claim 1: A mobile robot with an onboard web server, telecommunications means to link the onboard web server with the internet, and onboard telecommunications means to establish additional short-range bi-directional digital radio links with a plurality of external computer controlled devices;

wherein the mobile robot, under control by commands sent over the internet, travels into the vicinity of one or more of the external computer controlled devices and establishes a bi-directional, short-range, digital radio link with the external device.

Claim 2: The robot of claim 1, in which the onboard telecommunications means acts as a router to transmit data packets between the internet and the external computer controlled devices.

Claim 3: A mobile robot with an onboard web server, telecommunications means to link the onboard web server with the internet, and onboard telecommunications means to establish additional short-range bi-directional digital radio links with a plurality of non internet connected external computer controlled devices;

wherein the mobile robot, under control by commands sent over the internet, travels into the vicinity of one or more of the external computer controlled devices and establishes a direct bi-directional, short-range, digital radio link with the external device.

Claim 4: The robot of claim 2, in which the onboard telecommunications means acts as a router to transmit data packets between the internet and the external computer controlled devices.

Claim 5: A mobile robot with an onboard web server, and onboard router; telecommunications means to link the onboard web server and router with the Internet; telecommunications means to establish additional short-range bi-directional digital radio links with a plurality of local external computers or microprocessor-controlled devices;

wherein the mobile robot performs one or more functions selected from the group of:

establishing a link with the internet, traveling into the vicinity of one or more of the local external computers or microprocessor controlled devices, establishing a bi-directional short-range, digital radio link with these units, and relaying data packets between these units and the internet;

establishing a bi-directional, short-range, digital radio link with a local computer or microprocessor controlled device, and then traveling into range of an internet connection, and relaying data packets between these units and the internet.

Claim 6: The robot of claim 5, in which the local external computers or microprocessor controlled devices were not connected to the Internet, and in which the bi-directional, short-range, digital radio link is a direct link.